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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

August 6, 1947  
For your information

TO STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS OF FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, TENNESSEE, AND OHIO

Subject: Atlantic Coast Migratory Movement

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

GIVE US THE IMPRESSION this week that labor and jobs are in pretty good balance in the Middle Atlantic States. There are no large areas of surplus or shortage of migrant labor. Placement men have done a good job in meeting local situations where temporary shortages or surpluses have developed. Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey are going into their peak harvest season with ample labor in sight. New York has had local surpluses, but will continue to be the problem area when the peak season develops in September and before the other States may be able to release enough labor to meet this demand.

Virginia reports some crews have moved in to replace potato pickers who moved out during the period between potatoes and tomatoes. Some damage from blight and red spider reported in Accomac County. This coupled with slow ripening of tomatoes has made it possible to meet demands for labor in the Shore Counties to date, but it is estimated that 150 additional pickers will be needed for peak tomato harvest.

Maryland has 3,997 migrants in camps and an undetermined number in private housing. Tomato picking is under way and about two weeks of bean picking remain. Several crews have returned from New Jersey and New York where they had gone before they were needed. They are more inclined to listen to Extension advice now. By the end of this week all workers will be fully employed. As canneries go into full operation a lot of local workers will leave the fields to work in the canneries. Some shortage of labor may be expected then. The Black Horse Camp at White Hill has been opened for 150 migrant workers in the Baltimore market area.

Delaware camps are filling up and the situation is about the same as in Maryland. Only a few isolated cases of tomato blight have been reported and a bumper crop is in prospect.

New Jersey will be digging potatoes and any surplus of workers may be absorbed for the next few weeks. With a reduced acreage this year, the potato harvest might be completed in somewhat less time than usual. If this happens, some workers may be available for the later New York season.

New York presents a varied picture and it is still too early to predict peak labor requirements in September due to the late season, and some shifts in crop production. Long Island has had enough labor so far, but some later shortage is anticipated due to the fact that growers have replaced some potato acreage with lima beans which will be harvested about August 20. There is also a big cauliflower acreage to be harvested from Sept. 15 to frost, and migrants don't like to pick cauliflower. Heavy potato harvest will start the middle of August and continue through October. In the other areas of New York, heavy

demands for additional labor can be expected after September 1. At that time, Farm Cadets will be returning to school. It is also customary for some of the Florida migrants to head south in time to enter children in schools in Florida. Prospects of a good fruit crop will add to labor needs. Niagara County has filed a request for 150 workers to pick apples and peaches starting about September 1. Columbia County has requested 110 workers for the same date to be housed in the Kinderhook and Livingston camps. As a partial picture of future demand, Seymour Vaughan estimates demands for not less than 1,700 additional workers in New York State on September 1. A partial solution may come from the situation in the "Beanery" in central New York where the bean market has dropped and growers are reported plowing under some acreage. Some workers, who normally finish the season there, may be available for transfer to other areas.

#### GAZING IN THE CRYSTAL BALL

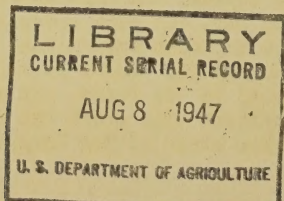
IT WOULD APPEAR that September 1 will usher in a critical period in the region when New York will need large numbers of additional workers before States to the south will be ready to release them. Another complication is the fact that many crews are ready to start back south after finishing in New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, especially if the weather gets a little cool.

To meet this situation the following steps seem indicated:

1. Crew Leader Record Slips should be obtained now for all crews working in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey. Placement men, county agents and camp managers can do this. O. W. Nealy will devote some of his time to this job in Maryland. Send copies of slips to E. K. Hanks, State Farm Labor Supervisor, Extension Service, State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N.Y., and to C. W. E. Pittman, Southeastern Area Director, Extension Farm Labor Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. From these records, lists can be prepared of (a) crews who have definite commitments to go to New York at a later date; (b) crews who have no future work agreements.
2. Use these lists in New York and this office as one basis for estimating future labor supply for New York, and for preliminary information on migrants returning to Florida.
3. About September 1, concentrate the efforts of Stout, Nealy, and perhaps Andersen in areas where work is nearing completion with instructions to assist placement men in guiding crews to areas of need in New York. At the same time they should be encouraging local personnel to start filling out crew slips on crews starting south. Information on these crews should go to counties in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina, having late bean acreage, and to Florida County Agents who are entitled to this service in return for the fine cooperation they gave to the northern movement.

The information station at Gross, Fla. was closed on August 1, and the information station at Little Creek, Va. will be closed at the end of this week.

December 31 may be Liquidation Day, but let's keep this program Solid up to the last minute.



Very truly yours

A. D. Cobb

Northeastern Area Director  
Recruitment and Placement Division  
Extension Farm Labor Program